

FX Solutions MT DEQ

Dear editor:
I was very disappointed to see letter written to the editor by John Fitzpatrick titled “Tabish has trouble getting state air quality permit” to our slag project. Mr. Fitzpatrick is correct in stating that we have received two incompleteness letters. Receiving incompleteness letters from the Department of Environmental Quality is uncommon and does not indicate “trouble” is occurring, yet it is a fact that occurs when the DEQ simulates additional information.

Let me also make it clear that the DEQ permit application was submitted on behalf of FX Solutions by a very reputable engineering firm and involved input from many professionals involved in this project. So it really isn’t “Tabish” who he claims is having trouble getting a state air quality permit, it is FX Solutions and the many team members who are working with the DEQ to get through the permitting process.

It has become very obvious from Mr. Fitzpatrick’s derogatory letters written to the Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Standard and Anaconda Leader that he has a personal vendetta against my cousin and partner Rick Tabish and is going to do everything that he can as a private citizen to not only defame my cousin, but to block the progress of this project. Yes, Mr. Fitzpatrick, my cousin has a lot of energy and thinks big, but it is people like him who make things happen and get things done and generate wealth for everyone.

I have personally been working on this project since it was conceptualized by my cousin Rick and myself in 2013. Members of my team represent a wide range of people from academia and industry, including Ph.D’s in metallurgy, Ph.D’s in chemistry, glass experts, induction furnace experts, electric arc furnace experts and general equipment experts throughout the country. Every one of these experts is passionate about our program and believes that this never-done-before novel idea is fascinating and will reform the copper smelting waste industry. We have smelters from other countries requesting that we process their slag.

I take extreme exception to Mr. Fitzpatrick’s comments in his letter that personally attack the honesty and integrity of our technical team and our project. His intention is to attack my cousin, but he is in fact attacking a large team of technical people as mentioned earlier. He uses phrases and terms such as “contempt for the permit process and the people of SW Montana”, “teeny weeny”, “itty bitty”, “manipulative ploy”, “gaming the system”, “something to hide”, “fudging numbers,” etc. Let me tell the people of the City of Anaconda, the County of Deer Lodge, and the State of Montana, *nothing could be further from the truth.*

We have absolutely nothing to hide and we are not trying to “game the system” as Mr. Fitzpatrick claims. We have welcomed

initial production and as the process occurs, the permitting will be adjusted accordingly. There is as much a chance that the emissions will actually be less than calculated as the chances that they will be greater. Mr. Fitzpatrick is only looking at the end game, based on public comments made by my cousin, and believes that we should have all of the answers right now. It is impossible to know all of the answers at this stage of the game.

If Mr. Fitzpatrick would exert as much of his personal time and energy into supporting positive progress of programs such as ours, rather than hold personal vendettas and criticize every step of progress, Montana might have an opportunity to actually be viewed as a State with innovation, development and perhaps an economy which thrives on manufacturing and production, which is a true creator of wealth. He needs to use his own words and look at the “*big picture*” of what this program will bring to the City of Anaconda and to the State of Montana.

My cousin and I are Montana natives and our family roots reach back to 1910 in Butte. We have no desire to create an unhealthy atmosphere and put any of the citizens or future employees at risk. That is why we have been completely transparent with our processes and called as many experts to the table as possible. We have sat down with the folks at DEQ face to face and discussed the issues that we both want to better understand. We are passionate about this program and despite Mr. Fitzpatrick’s rhetoric and baseless claims about our integrity, we will continue to work with the fine folks at Bison Engineering, Copper Environmental, the DEQ and leaders from ADLC, and get through this process in a constructive manner.

Envision if you will, a company providing good living wage jobs, taking a big pile of waste that has landscaped Anaconda for decades, and turning it into useful products that are mostly imported into our country. I can’t think of anything that I would be more proud of. It is a very complex process, and it is going to take time, and we will do it right. Don’t allow people like John Fitzpatrick to brainwash you into thinking that we are not acting in good faith.

Daniel A. Tabish
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